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Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations*

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In a number of resolutions, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the active participation of regional and other organizations in the work of the United Nations. The present report is prepared pursuant to the most recent requests of the Assembly that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of those resolutions at its sixty-fifth session.

* The present report is submitted six working days after the deadline to allow the inclusion of amendments to the text after the draft report had been submitted to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for approval.

As requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to its resolution 58/316, this is a consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

The present report covers the period since the most recent consolidated report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations was issued on 8 August 2008 (A/63/228-S/2008/531).

In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. This report, therefore, is also submitted to the Security Council.

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I. Introduction

1. Section II of the present report has been prepared pursuant to the 16 most recent resolutions in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional and other organizations.

2. In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. This report constitutes part of the response to that request.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

African Union

3. Members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) held their third and fourth joint consultative meetings in 2009 in Addis Ababa and in 2010 in New York. At the request of the African Union, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat dispatched a mission to Addis Ababa in 2009 to support the strengthening of the secretariat of the Peace and Security Council.

4. The Department of Political Affairs has continued its support to the AU Panel of the Wise, as well as the AU policy organs. Support to AU focused mainly on the areas of mediation support, electoral assistance, the AU border programme, and gender mainstreaming. The Department supported the establishment of a database system for the Union's Democracy Electoral Assistance Unit and the setting up of a roster of electoral observers and experts, as well as the development of an AU mediation strategy. Using the recommendations of the AU-United Nations Lessons Learned Workshop on joint mediation partnerships organized by the Department of Political Affairs and AU in 2009, joint guidelines on the AU-United Nations mediation partnership are currently being developed. The Department is also helping to establish an AU roster of African mediators. The United Nations, AU and regional economic communities have carried out joint preventive diplomacy and peacemaking activities to pursue the resolution of crises in the Comoros, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, the Niger, Somalia and the Sudan, among others.

5. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat cooperate closely with AU in respect of the joint African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The Department of Field Support has been engaged in the tripartite negotiation process with the Government of the Sudan and AU to secure safe and steady passage of personnel and equipment to UNAMID. United Nations planners are assisting the AU Commission in its management, planning and deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and logistical support is being provided by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA). As part of the logistics support package approved by the Security Council, the Department of Field Support

has helped to put in place a sustainable supply route from Mombasa to Mogadishu to support AMISOM.

6. Longer term cooperation and support to the development of a sustainable capacity to address issues of peace and security was the subject of a report by a joint African Union-United Nations Panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations in 2008 (see A/63/666-S/2008/813) and a report of the Secretary-General in 2009 (A/64/359-S/2009/470). Among the recommendations of the latter are a number of steps to enhance cooperation and information exchanges between the Secretariat and the Commission, including the establishment of a Joint Task Force on Peace and Security and the integration of the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa dealing with peace and security through the formation of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU). The Department of Field Support, in coordination with the Department of Political Affairs, has also been providing support to the AU initiative on African border issues, the AU Border Programme, since the first Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues in 2007.

7. The Department of Public Information continues to strengthen its efforts to focus global attention on issues critical to Africa's development, including by promoting the aims of the AU New Partnership for Africa's Development Policy and Coordination Agency and publicizing its achievements through the publication of the quarterly magazine, *Africa Renewal*. Representatives of AMISOM participated in the annual public information and peacekeeping workshop organized by the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in 2010 in Entebbe. This was the second year that AU participated in the workshop.

8. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs implements a Development Account project which supports capacity-building of the two nascent electricity power pools in the African region, namely, the Eastern Africa Power Pool and the Central Africa Power Pool. The Department also collaborates with the e8 General Secretariat, an international organization composed of 10 leading electricity companies in the implementation of a series of capacity-building workshops for developing countries and countries with economies in transition on financing sustainable electrification to ensure access to energy services.

9. Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and AU was strengthened through the recent formulation of the AU Commission's Medium-Term Strategy, particularly in areas of trade, gender, information and communication technology, science and technology, governance and public administration, land policy and climate change. Both organizations have also undertaken various joint initiatives in support of knowledge generation and dissemination, as well as the joint organization of the third AU Commission-ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in 2010. Since 2008, the AU Commission has participated actively in the annual United Nations regional consultation meetings convened by ECA in support of the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

10. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat established a Liaison Office to AU in 2008 and has continued to work closely with the AU Commission on developing its humanitarian coordination policies; mainstreaming the protection of civilians in armed conflict; strengthening emergency response coordination; and improving information management and

resource mobilization. The Office's support on internal displacement to the AU Commission resulted in the adoption, in 2009, of the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. In support of the AU peace and security architecture, the Office provided technical support to the development of guidelines for the protection of civilians for AU Peace Support Operations, and has organized civil-military coordination seminars for a range of AU-affiliated entities.

11. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), through its East Africa Regional Office which also serves as a liaison office to AU, actively cooperates with the AU Commission to map human rights within AU programmes and to develop an AU human rights strategy. In 2009, OHCHR and others organized a regional consultation in Addis Ababa in preparation for the international workshop entitled Enhancing Cooperation between International and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms.

12. The African Union has emerged as a natural partner for the Peacebuilding Commission, which currently has four African countries (Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone) on its agenda. To strengthen their cooperation, a delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission and the Chairs of the country-specific configurations visited AU headquarters in Addis Ababa in 2009 and agreed to coordinate and collaborate actively in the countries on the Commission's agenda. The Commission invited AU to a Partnership for Peacebuilding meeting in 2010, and the first joint AU-Peace and Security Council-Peacebuilding Commission meeting took place later that year in New York. As a testimony to the Union's commitment to become more actively engaged in countries on the agenda of the Commission, AU has recently opened a liaison office in the Central African Republic.

13. In 2009, the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee met with AU to discuss areas of mutual cooperation and ongoing dialogue with the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism. The Executive Directorate facilitated technical assistance to the African Centre and to States members of AU by encouraging donors to co-sponsor activities of the Centre.

14. In line with its efforts to apply science and technology to development issues affecting health, freshwater, agriculture and other areas, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the AU Commission in 2009. It outlines closer cooperation in support of the AU-Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign initiative and Member States' efforts to address the tsetse and trypanosomosis problem.

15. The joint project of the AU Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) started in 2009. The main objective of the project is to support the AU Commission and the regional economic communities in implementing the AU Plan of Action and related regional action plans and mainstreaming them into development plans and Millennium Development Goal-based country strategies.

16. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to manage the multi-donor trust fund established to support the African Peer Review Mechanism, and continued assistance to strengthen the core capacity of the AU Commission's Peace and Security Department to better assure the operations of the

Panel of the Wise, the Peace and Security Council and the African Standby Force. The UNDP Regional Governance Programme managed by the Regional Service Centre in Johannesburg is working with AU to strengthen the governance capacities of AU and the regional economic communities, support the African Governance and Public Administration Programme, and support to the African Peer Review Mechanism.

17. Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and AU continues to be enhanced through the UNEP Liaison Office in Addis Ababa. UNEP has maintained regular contact with AU through the office of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture. In 2009, UNEP was one of the organizers of a series of preparatory meetings for Africa's climate change negotiators ahead of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Similar cooperation is ongoing in preparation for the sixteenth session of the Conference.

18. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa in 2009. Since then 15 countries have launched the Campaign. UNFPA is supporting the implementation of the AU African Youth Charter, and to date, over 19 countries have signed or ratified it. The UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign was launched by AU in Addis Ababa in 2010. UNFPA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) are co-conveners of the campaign.

19. UNIFEM has established a Liaison Office with AU, with which it has a three-year collaboration agreement. The Fund is working to strengthen core capacities of gender advocates within and outside the AU. Moreover, UNIFEM has undertaken a mapping of regional and subregional women's rights advocacy networks and their partnership with AU.

20. The World Food Programme (WFP) is working in partnership with the AU Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Economic Commission for Africa, to jointly coordinate a study to raise awareness, build consensus and catalyse action towards reducing child under-nutrition in Africa.

21. In 2009, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) established a Liaison Office to work with AU and the Economic Commission for Africa in areas affecting the survival, education, protection and participation of African children and youth at continental level in furtherance of the 2008-2012 Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children. Beyond its cluster roles, UNICEF has given strong financial and technical support to the AU Commission's Department of Social Affairs.

22. In line with its memorandum of understanding with AU, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provided financial and technical support for the Eighteenth Conference of African Ministers of Industry. In addition to the main technical input of the Conference, UNIDO provided financial support to Member States to ensure adequate representation and participation of all stakeholders. UNIDO also co-organized a number of expert group meetings in 2009 and 2010 with AU.

23. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been providing support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in particular in the implementation of its agriculture programme. Since the 2009 L'Aquila Summit,

FAO has worked closely with the New Partnership's Planning and Coordinating Agency in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) country Compact and post-Compact processes. FAO has also contributed significantly to the development of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme.

24. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has provided a consultant to support AU in preparing its first comprehensive report on the implementation status of the 2004 Extraordinary Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, and its implementation mechanism. The report was tabled at the Meeting of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in 2009. The AU-ILO Joint Task Force planned and undertook joint activities funded by ILO during 2009 that culminated in the establishment of the Productivity Agenda for Africa; an agenda and programme on upgrading the informal economy; and modalities for measuring progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action.

25. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa assisted AU in implementing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). The Centre co-hosted two meetings in 2009 and 2010 to assist African States in preparing for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and on the implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba. The AU participated in a regional workshop, organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in Egypt in 2009, on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

26. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and UNDP are supporting judicial leadership on human rights and HIV in Africa. As part of the efforts to engage the judiciary in the HIV response, a meeting of eminent African judges and lawyers was held in Johannesburg in 2009 to discuss HIV and the law in the twenty-first century.

27. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has supported the AU Commission, regional economic communities and member States in implementing Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), plans and instruments adopted at the AU Summit in Khartoum in 2006 in the field of culture, the Revised Charter for the Cultural Renaissance of Africa, the Plan of Action for Cultural Industries in Africa, the African Academy of Languages, the Language Plan of Action for Africa, the African World Heritage Fund, and the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

28. In accordance with the cooperative framework between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, consultations have been held routinely, on matters of common interest, between the United Nations Legal Counsel and the Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. Cooperation with the United Nations in the area of international law includes, inter alia, law of the sea, international trade law, international environmental law, international criminal law, human rights law, refugee law, humanitarian law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

29. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization was represented at the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly. It was also represented at the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions of the International Law Commission, and the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Representatives of various United Nations bodies participated in the forty-seventh and forty-eighth annual sessions of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization.

30. The 2008 and 2009 annual meetings of Legal Advisers of the States members of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization focused on the International Criminal Court, enhancing the Consultative Organization's role and activities in coming years, and on its contribution to the work of the Sixth Committee and the General Assembly.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

31. On the occasion of the annual ministerial meeting between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in New York in 2009, a joint statement was issued, stressing the importance of nurturing an effective partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations that will help both organizations effectively to address the challenges affecting Southeast Asia and the world. It also recalled the memorandum of understanding on ASEAN-United Nations cooperation which has provided a sound framework for enhanced cooperation. The meeting called on the two secretariats to work towards the development of a strategy for further enhancing their cooperation. The third ASEAN-United Nations summit was held in Viet Nam in 2010.

32. In accordance with article 14 of the charter of ASEAN, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was inaugurated at the fifteenth ASEAN Summit in 2009. OHCHR had previously organized an expert meeting in Geneva in 2009 to assist in drafting terms of reference.

33. United Nations system-wide cooperation with ASEAN has continued in several specific areas, in particular with regard to assisting Myanmar in its recovery from cyclone Nargis through the Tripartite Core Group, in cooperation with the Government of Myanmar and with the support of the international donor community. Following the emergency relief and early recovery phases, ASEAN hosted the Conference on the Post-Nargis Recovery Support in 2009, which resulted in pledges of over $90 million to meet priority requirements in the Nargis-affected areas, while simultaneously noting the need to transfer to the Government the role of coordinating assistance.

34. In 2010, a workshop on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and ASEAN was hosted by Indonesia and Slovakia. The workshop concluded that States members of ASEAN should enhance their partnership with the United Nations to support more complementary approaches to multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

35. Following the 2008 ASEAN-United Nations meeting on food security and the ASEAN-FAO Regional Food Security Conference in 2009, a Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security has now been agreed upon for 2009-2013.

36. The Office for Disarmament Affairs cooperated with ASEAN in conducting a regional workshop in Indonesia in 2010 on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

37. High-level contacts between the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the United Nations Secretariat have taken place on a regular basis. The two Secretaries-General have met to discuss ongoing and future cooperation between their organizations. BSEC was accepted as a Friend of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in 2009.

38. Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and BSEC has focused particularly on transport-related issues. Cooperation was also developed on the promotion of public-private partnerships. Future cooperation will focus on implementing plans for the Black Sea Ring Highway and the Motorways of the Sea through joint capacity-building and investment planning workshops.

39. The BSEC-UNDP joint Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme aims to support economic growth and development in the Black Sea region by promoting regional economic integration among States members of BSEC.

40. Cooperation between UNIDO and BSEC has been enhanced through the UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation in Ankara.

Caribbean Community

41. The Secretary-General attended the 31st meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Jamaica in 2010. In 2009, the Department of Political Affairs organized a mini-summit between the Secretary-General and States members of CARICOM at United Nations Headquarters.

42. At the Fourth CARICOM-United Nations General Meeting in 2007, it had been recommended that a mechanism be devised to determine priorities for cooperation and monitor their implementation. A Regional Strategic Framework was drafted accordingly and adopted at the Fifth General Meeting in 2009. The two organizations agreed that the Department of Political Affairs and the CARICOM Directorate of Foreign and Community Relations would jointly act as focal points for the Regional Strategic Framework. In line with this decision, the Department initiated a process to review progress in implementation of the Framework.

43. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs collaborated with CARICOM to operationalize the main instrument for the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, namely, the Regional Coordinating Mechanism. CARICOM is a member of the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group, which intends to undertake a five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

44. In 2010, the Department of Public Information worked with a Steering Group comprised of representatives from African Union and States members of CARICOM to organize a week-long series of activities for the third annual commemoration of

the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. In 2009 the Department organized a workshop on the rule of law for nearly 90 judicial officials from CARICOM member States through the News Centre online service.

45. The UNDP Regional Centre in Panama is working with the CARICOM secretariat, through the subregional office in Port of Spain, to develop capacity on results-based management and aid effectiveness. A regional project is being implemented to support the implementation of the Caribbean single market and economy, the enhancement of CARICOM capacities to foster stronger democratic institutions and mechanisms for citizen security, and the strengthening of capacities to address issues related to climate change.

46. UNODC is actively supporting CARICOM countries in implementing the Santo Domingo Pact, which was endorsed by Caribbean Public Security and Justice Ministers in 2009. In 2010, UNODC co-hosted the First Preparatory Expert Workshop for the Managua Mechanism for Central American States. UNODC is recruiting a consultant and a crime prevention adviser to be posted at the CARICOM secretariat in 2010, who will initiate the consultation process of the CARICOM Social and Development Crime Prevention Plan of Action.

47. UNICEF provided support to the organization of a special summit of CARICOM Heads of Government on Youth and Development in Suriname in 2010. UNICEF has provided support to CARICOM to mainstream its Regional Health and Family Life Education Curriculum Framework in schools. UNICEF has also worked closely with the CARICOM Subregional Task Force on Child Protection and Child Rights. A Caribbean Framework of Recommendations for Action based on the study entitled "The Impact of Migration on Children in the Caribbean" was developed in collaboration with CARICOM member States. UNICEF plays an active role in the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS.

48. Professionals from States members of CARICOM were also introduced to Census Info, a project aimed at using technology to help countries with census data organization and dissemination, in preparation for the round of censuses in the Caribbean region to take place in 2010 and 2011. UNFPA developed a partnership with CARICOM to create a resource consortium to ensure that the data collected is of high quality, relevant and reliable, and that it can be analysed and disseminated in a timely manner.

49. In 2009, the International Trade Centre (ITC) convened a high-level dialogue to explore opportunities for collaboration within the context of the Aid for Trade agenda. ITC is currently working with Caribbean Export, the only regional trade and investment promotion agency in the African, Caribbean and Pacific group to develop a project to promote the region's creative industries sector.

50. A technical assessment report was prepared in 2008 by UNIDO and others. It was approved by the Regional Preparatory Task Force for the Caribbean region as one of the main initiatives to be considered by the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) and the European Union.

51. Following a request from CARIFORUM, a regional programme for food security was prepared by FAO, in close collaboration with the CARICOM secretariat. It was subsequently approved by the CARICOM Council of Ministers responsible for Trade and Economic Development. FAO is currently implementing

the second phase of the Programme (2008 to 2010) through strengthening the food policy environment and support services for sustainable food systems.

52. Through its office in Port of Spain, ILO provides support to meetings of CARICOM labour ministries. It participates actively in the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration, aiming at strengthening the human and institutional capacities of labour ministries through international cooperation.

53. The CARICOM regional coordinator for Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), relating to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, participated in several regional workshops organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs with a focus on border and export controls.

54. UNAIDS has provided strong support to the CARICOM-based Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). UNAIDS is also a key technical partner in developing the biannual operational plans for the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS, as well as on the PANCAP/CARICOM initiative to develop model legislation and policy to address stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV. UNIFEM has supported CARICOM in an institutional strengthening process that included a gender audit of the organization.

Collective Security Treaty Organization

55. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) was granted observer status in the General Assembly during its fifty-ninth session. High-level contacts between the secretariat of CSTO and the United Nations Secretariat have taken place on a regular basis. The two Secretaries-General met on the margins of a Security Council meeting in 2010 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between their organizations.

56. In 2010, a Joint Declaration on United Nations-CSTO Secretariat Cooperation was signed by the two Secretaries-General in Moscow. The Declaration, inter alia, aims to further develop cooperation on communication and information sharing and capacity-building, within areas such as conflict prevention and resolution, counter-terrorism, trans-national crime, illicit arms trade, and prevention of and response to emergency situations.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

57. The Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries is a member of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

58. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has steadily increased its assistance to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in recent years through cooperation agreements, particularly in the field of land tenure and land management. Two technical cooperation programmes and one Government cooperation programme were recently completed.

59. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries signed a memorandum of understanding in 2009 on capacity development actions in the field of human rights,

environmental projects, and programmes to strengthen institutional capacity to reinforce public administration in Portuguese-speaking countries. In 2010, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and UNAIDS also formalized their cooperation in response to AIDS in countries of the Community through a memorandum of understanding.

60. Each year, the International Day of the Portuguese Language is celebrated at UNESCO headquarters.

Council of Europe

61. In 2010, the annual high-level tripartite meeting between the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was held in Vienna. Discussions underscored the potential for further cooperation concerning the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) relating to women, peace and security.

62. In 2009, the third coordination meeting between the Council of Europe and OHCHR was held in Strasbourg. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen relations between the two organizations at the working level and build on best practices in order to enhance the effectiveness of their work in the human rights field. Later that year, OHCHR organized, in cooperation with the Council and the Network of European National Human Rights Institutions, a regional consultation, also in Strasbourg, in preparation for the international workshop on regional human rights mechanisms (Human Rights Council resolution 12/15).

63. In 2009, UNEP and the Council of Europe organized the Fifth Biodiversity in Europe Conference, in Liège, in the framework of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, and brought together over 120 representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and scientists from the pan-European region to exchange views and expertise and provide input to the post-2010 biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

64. UNICEF has continued to strengthen its engagement with the Council of Europe within the framework of the joint declaration on reinforcement of cooperation signed in 2007 by the UNICEF Executive Director and the Secretary-General of the Council. Of note is the implementation of the Council's programme on "Building a Europe for and with Children" in 2006-2008. A strategy for the programme for 2009-2011 was elaborated and launched in 2008, based on achievements and lessons learned in the first phase.

65. The Council of Europe continues to be a key partner for the World Health Organization (WHO), which participates as an observer in the Council's annual Health Committee. The Council attends the meetings of the WHO European Regional Committee. Collaboration has recently focused on health technologies/pharmaceuticals, health in prisons, child health, governance and social exclusion processes and health inequities.

66. The Alliance of Civilizations has been working in close collaboration with the Council of Europe in a number of areas, including youth and education. The Council was involved in consultations to develop the Youth Strategy of the Alliance and is contributing to the creation of the Alliance's Global Youth Movement. In education,

the Council and the Alliance collaborated in advancing research on the role of history teaching as a tool to promote intercultural understanding.

Economic Community of Central African States

67. The Department of Political Affairs is implementing a project aimed at enhancing the early warning, mediation, and conflict prevention capacity of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). To that end, a Senior Political Affairs Officer will be deployed shortly to the ECCAS headquarters in Libreville to contribute to strengthening synergies between ECCAS and the United Nations system in the field of peace and security.

68. The Secretary-General has informed members of the Security Council of his intention to establish a United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in Libreville. The Secretary-General recalled that Heads of State and Government in the Central Africa subregion had, on several occasions, called on him to establish such an office.

69. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation on issues related to peace and disarmament was signed between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and ECCAS under which a legally binding instrument to control small arms in Central Africa was drafted. This instrument was adopted by the 30th Ministerial Conference of 11 States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in 2010. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa is currently drafting the plan of action that will be used by ECCAS to implement the convention.

Economic Cooperation Organization

70. ECE, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNIDO worked with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the area of trade facilitation, trade capacity and multimodal transport, including the harmonization of national transport legislation and infrastructure development. In 2009, ESCAP signed a memorandum of understanding with ECO and the Islamic Development Bank on developing the Asian Highway Network and Trans-Asian Railway, as well as on implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement. ESCAP also provided expertise and training to ECO in the area of economic and informal sector statistics and national accounts. ESCAP worked with ECO in the implementation of the Busan and Bangkok Declarations, as well as on the Regional Action Programme on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific. UNCTAD assisted ECO in implementing the Custom Transit Trade-related provisions of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement, as well as the provisions relating to transit facilities for landlocked countries. ECO also participated in meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

71. UNIDO worked with ECO on building trade capacity, including through trainings, surveys and assessments, and through a joint interregional project on Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality. UNIDO developed a database on foreign

direct and other investment and worked with ECO on further initiatives on the development of small and medium enterprises and the private sector.

72. FAO assisted ECO in the preparation and implementation of the Regional Programme for Food Security. A regional programme for food security caters for each of the 10 States members of ECO in Central Asia. However, given the particular nature of the situation in Afghanistan, it also includes a specific country-level component for community-based food production in Afghanistan. FAO has helped to establish the ECO Seed Association among the 10 member countries in the region.

73. UNICEF provided support to ECO and the National Institute of Health Research in the preparation of an analytical report on progress in achieving three health-related Millennium Development Goals. UNDP provided project management training to ECO. UNEP continued its support to ECO under a 2005 memorandum of understanding in the areas of environmental law and education, eco-tourism, renewable energy services and environmental assessments. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs held several joint workshops with ECO, including on the Legal Framework for Humanitarian Assistance.

Eurasian Economic Community

74. The Eurasian Economic Community (EEC) took active part in the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources organized by ECE within the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

75. ECE and EEC have organized seminars on trade facilitation, the Single Window, and data harmonization. In 2008, the EEC Interparliamentary Assembly hosted a seminar on the Single Window, whereby trade-related information need only be submitted once to fulfil all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements, and related issues. In 2009, seminars focused on trade development and legislative harmonization in transition economies, as well as on capacity-building for e-commerce and Single Window systems.

76. In 2008, UNESCO signed a memorandum of understanding with EEC. The following year, UNIDO signed a memorandum of understanding with EEC on such issues as energy, climate change, water management, agro-related industries, trade capacity-building, and private sector development. UNIDO also initiated a regional project on investment and technology promotion for EEC countries.

International Organization of la Francophonie

77. In 2008, the Department of Political Affairs brought together the United Nations, the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF) and others in Bamako to discuss democratization. IOF has participated in international efforts towards conflict prevention and resolution, and peace consolidation on the ground in Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania and the Niger.

78. The Permanent Observer of IOF participated in the visit of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Central African Republic in 2009. The United Nations and OIF were also actively involved in providing support to the Inclusive Political Dialogue

in the Central African Republic in 2008. The Permanent Representative of IOF in Gabon also participated in the Commission's visit to Burundi in 2010.

79. IOF and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have held joint expert seminars and consultations in the area of peacekeeping operations and the protection of civilians to prepare francophone countries for discussions related to those issues. IOF has also been involved in consultations related to the Department's "New Horizon" concept, and a United Nations-IOF working group has been established to follow the implementation of critical recommendations of various IOF-Department of Peacekeeping Operations joint meetings.

80. As part of the "Language Days at the United Nations" initiative by the Department of Public Information, French Language Day was observed at United Nations Headquarters in 2010. The Department organized a language and media fair in partnership with IOF. A round-table discussion on "Multilingualism in international organizations: challenges of diversity" was also held at Geneva to mark the International Day of Francophonie.

81. Cooperation between IOF and OHCHR for the period 2010-2011 will be based on three pillars: implementation of human rights mechanisms; promotion of human rights in conflict prevention and resolution as well as peace consolidation; and promotion of diversity and fight against all forms of discrimination.

82. In 2009, IOF and UNAIDS signed a framework to strengthen cooperation in francophone countries.

Latin American Economic System

83. In 2009, UNIDO participated in a number of events organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), which joined the UNIDO Industrial Knowledge Network of Partners.

84. The formulation of the UNDP-UNCTAD-SELA Joint Regional Programme for Trade, Investment and Development Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010-2012) has been finalized and aims to enhance the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries in formulating appropriate policy responses in areas of trade, investment, and human development.

League of Arab States

85. Frequent consultations between the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS) have focused on conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and the fight against terrorism.

86. The League of Arab States has impressed upon parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan the urgent need to expedite preparations for the forthcoming referendums, address outstanding issues of the Agreement, and complete post-referendums arrangements. The League has also hosted several meetings of the United Nations-chaired International Contact Group on Somalia.

87. The League of Arab States has supported proximity talks between Palestinians and Israelis, and espoused the Arab Peace Initiative. The United Nations and the League have worked together to assist Lebanon in its efforts to affirm its

sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. The League's continued engagement on Iraq has focused on the electoral process and promotion of political dialogue and national reconciliation.

88. In close cooperation with the Alliance of Civilizations, the League has played an active role in promoting the adoption of national plans for intercultural dialogue among its member States. The League is a key partner for the Alliance's International Fellowship Programme. The League's Human Rights Committee visited OHCHR headquarters in 2009 and 2010 to strengthen links between the organizations.

89. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States prepared a convention on multimodal transport, drafted a joint regional report on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab region, and convened workshops in Beirut in 2010 on efficient management of development projects.

90. A memorandum of understanding between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the League of Arab States was finalized in 2009. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has provided technical support, guidance and policy advice to the League on establishing the Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction — Training and Research. UNEP worked with the League towards the adoption of the "green economy" theme for the 2010 environmental regional workplan by the forty-second session of the Executive Office of the Arab Ministers in Charge of Environment Affairs.

91. Collaboration between UNDP and the LAS included sponsorship of editions of the Arab Human Development Report. A joint UNDP-LAS study on poverty and food sovereignty has provided a platform for enhancing UNDP strategic assistance in the region. With funding committed by the European Commission and LAS, UNDP is supporting the establishment of a "crisis centre" within LAS to coordinate crisis prevention and response measures. UNIDO, in close cooperation and coordination with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, is developing an Arab regional programme for the development of small and medium-scale industries.

92. UNFPA and the LAS have agreed to launch a regional maternal health initiative, endorsed by the Council of Health Ministers of Arab States in 2010.

93. The UNODC Regional Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice reform in the Arab States (2011-2015), developed in partnership with the LAS, promotes the rule of law and sustainable development. The Arab Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking aims to build national capacities in the Arab region to effectively combat human trafficking. The LAS, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee worked together on relevant initiatives on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

94. In 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized a regional workshop in Qatar on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

95. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office briefed the Security Council in 2010, and the Secretary-General addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna later in the year. Also in 2010, the tenth annual United Nations-OSCE staff-level meeting discussed options for closer cooperation in conflict prevention and mediation, and disarmament, as well as a number of regional and country-specific areas of interest. The United Nations was also represented at the OSCE informal ministerial meeting in Almaty in 2010.

96. The 2010 annual tripartite meeting between the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe focused on gender and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

97. In 2010, staff from the United Nations and OSCE participated in a joint mediation training at the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden. Missions have worked closely together in south-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia. Most recently, events in Kyrgyzstan demonstrated the importance and value of a coordinated and well-designed approach among international actors, including the United Nations and OSCE.

98. Following the OSCE Permanent Council's decision to select transport as the theme for its efforts in the Economic and Environmental Dimension in 2010, ECE focused on assisting OSCE in implementing its Ministerial Council decision concerning future transport dialogue in the organization. ECE substantive review sessions have become a regular feature of the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums. ECE also prepared, submitted and discussed a review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of transport.

99. The Environment and Security Initiative brings together ECE, OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, the Regional Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in a partnership that aims to reduce interlinked environment and security risks through enhanced cooperation among and within countries in the pan-European region. Partners of the Initiative have jointly implemented 44 projects and 17 activities with a total budget of US$ 26 million.

Organization of American States

100. During 2008, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) exchanged letters on cooperation on political issues and agreed to deepen collaboration through desk-to-desk consultations, joint training opportunities, collaboration on the development of "lessons learned" capacities, electoral cooperation, and collaboration on a regional consultation on democracy. Desk-to-desk dialogues were held in 2009 and 2010 between the Department of Political Affairs and the OAS Political Secretariat. Throughout 2009 and 2010, both secretariats maintained close contact on issues such as the coup in Honduras. The United Nations and OAS are active members of the high-level electoral task force in Haiti to support the organization of presidential and legislative elections in 2010.

101. ILO participates actively in the Inter-American Network for Labour Administration, aimed at strengthening the human and institutional capacities of labour ministries through international cooperation.

102. The Office for Disarmament Affairs cooperated with OAS in conducting a regional workshop on the implementation of the programme of action on small arms and light weapons in Lima in 2010. In 2008, the United Nations Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, along with OAS, jointly developed a best practice manual on the destruction of surplus and/or obsolete weapons.

103. In 2009, OHCHR organized a regional consultation in Washington, D.C., in preparation for the international workshop on regional human rights mechanisms, bringing together representatives of governments, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In 2010, OHCHR participated in an expert meeting organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

104. In 2009, initial versions of a joint UNDP-OAS report on citizens and democracy in Latin America were written and discussed during a tour around different countries in the region. UNDP and OAS have also established a structure for regular consultations and joint work in the area of democratic governance. In 2009, UNDP was invited to become a member of the Joint Summit Working Group in charge of preparing the Sixth Summit of the Americas to take place in Colombia in 2012.

Organization of the Islamic Conference

105. The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have met regularly on conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the fight against terrorism, and the activities of the Alliance of Civilizations. OIC officials were invited by the United Nations to participate in seminars and other training opportunities in the areas of conflict prevention, negotiations, mediation and elections.

106. The 2010 general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and OIC took place in Istanbul at the invitation of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. It reviewed joint activities undertaken since 2008, outlined follow-up mechanisms and agreed to focus future collaboration in conflict prevention, capacity-building electoral assistance, counter-terrorism, fighting extremism and countering Islamophobia, and stressed the importance of the mobilization of resources for those purposes.

107. The United Nations has worked closely with OIC in efforts to restore peace and security in Somalia. OIC hosted the International Contact Group (ICG) meeting on Somalia in Jeddah in 2009. During the meeting, OIC announced its intention to open an office in Mogadishu to assist in the reconstruction of Somalia through the implementation of humanitarian projects in the fields of poverty alleviation and relief.

108. Links between OIC and the Alliance of Civilizations have been reinforced by the signing of a memorandum of understanding during the Istanbul Forum in 2009. It outlines a framework for joint action to address cultural gaps and improve intercultural understanding. A two-year action plan on cooperation and interaction (2010-2012) was signed during the Rio de Janeiro Forum in 2010.

109. OIC participates in the special meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations. The Executive

Directorate of the Committee took part in a regional workshop on legal responses to the fight against international terrorism, organized by UNODC and OIC in Jeddah in 2010.

110. At the request of OIC, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is providing technical support to an OIC report assessing the impact of natural hazards on its member States. The Office has also drafted a memorandum of understanding with OIC.

111. In 2009, a mission from the OIC General Secretariat held meetings with OHCHR officials in Geneva on the establishment of the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights. OHCHR is organizing four expert workshops on incitement to national, racial or religious hatred in follow-up to the expert seminar on articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with regard to freedom of expression and incitement to hatred. These workshops are designed to contribute to combating Islamophobia.

112. OIC is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission and is particularly active in the Commission's work in Sierra Leone, specifically in resource mobilization. OIC has maintained a trust fund of $1.1 million dedicated to Sierra Leone which has been used for specific projects in the areas of community recovery, rehabilitation of schools, and food processing.

113. UNEP worked with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in implementing capacity-building activities on sustainable tourism. In 2009, UNEP participated in the tenth session of the General Conferences of ISESCO.

114. Joint efforts by ESCWA and OIC have taken place mainly in the areas of sustainable development, financing for development, transport and trade. The OIC secretariat has arranged for the delivery of large quantities of food and medicine to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, with UNRWA arranging storage and distribution.

115. UNESCO cooperation with OIC is conducted through its specialized and subsidiary bodies, particularly ISESCO and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. UNESCO signed a formal agreement with ISESCO in 1984 and revised it in 2010.

Pacific Islands Forum

116. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Pacific (2008-2012) was designed to align with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Pacific plan for economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security. The United Nations has paid particular attention to addressing key challenges of the region's small island developing States. The Secretary-General was represented at the PIF leaders' meetings in 2008 and 2009.

117. In 2010, the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis was held in Vanuatu. The Conference was organized by UNDP, the PIF secretariat and others. On climate change, UNDP and the PIF secretariat have played an active role in the Suva-based Development Partners Round Tables on Climate Change and advocated for the link between climate change, disaster, and potential for conflict, which was formally recognized by the PIF Regional Security Committee in 2009.

118. UNDP and the PIF secretariat conducted joint assessments of the security sector in several Pacific island countries, jointly convened a regional conference on security sector governance in Tonga in 2009 and published the first report on that issue. UNDP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) helped to organize workshops in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga in 2009 and 2010 on aid effectiveness and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

119. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ESCAP, in collaboration with PIF and the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific Agencies, jointly organized the high-level Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the Five-Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2010. ADB, ESCAP, UNDP and the PIF secretariat also organized the Pacific Millennium Development Goals Workshop in 2009 in Fiji. The ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific has also been cooperating with the PIF secretariat on the development of a rights-based disability policy and implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda.

120. UNFPA works closely with the PIF secretariat on Millennium Development Goal reporting, the Cairns Compact Development Partner Reporting, and the Regional Statistics Benchmarking Study and Implementation Plan. In 2010, FAO, UNICEF, WHO and others partnered with the PIF secretariat to support the Pacific Food Summit in Vanuatu to review the food and nutrition situation in the region and propose modalities for better sustainable access. In the overall context of the Forum's economic partnership agreements with the European Union, UNIDO prepared a project for PIF on Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

121. In 2010, the Department of Political Affairs and UNDP worked closely to provide electoral assistance to Pacific island countries, including the coordination of international election observers from PIF and others during the Solomon Islands elections in August, and the deployment of a United Nations electoral expert monitoring team during the May elections in Bougainville. Officials of the Department continue to maintain contact with PIF Secretariat officials on political, governance, and security issues of mutual concern.

122. The Tripartite High-level Meeting on Decent Work for Sustainable Development in the Pacific was held in Vanuatu in 2010 and resulted in the adoption of the Port Vila Statement on Decent Work, as well as the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work.

123. The Office for Disarmament Affairs cooperated with PIF to conduct a regional workshop on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Sydney in 2009.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

124. Contacts between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have continued through existing inter-agency forums and formats. In March 2009, the Secretary-General attended the SCO Special Conference on Afghanistan.

125. The partnership between the United Nations and SCO was further enhanced with the signing of a joint declaration on cooperation in 2010 in Tashkent. The

Declaration details areas of potential cooperation between the two secretariats, such as: conflict prevention and resolution; the fight against terrorism; preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery; combating transnational crime, including trafficking in illicit drugs and the illicit arms trade; and addressing the problems of environmental degradation.

126. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the SCO secretariat regularly exchange information on mutual activities and developments in the region. It is envisaged that in 2010 and 2011, the Regional Centre, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the five Central Asian Governments, along with regional partners such as SCO, will hold a series of meetings on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

127. ESCAP has continued to work closely with SCO in the context of the implementation of the Busan Declaration and Regional Action Plan on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia.

128. In 2008, UNICEF provided technical inputs on the issue of vaccine preventable diseases at a high-level SCO meeting on cooperation in sanitary and epidemiological issues. In 2009, UNICEF provided technical support and inputs into the high-level meeting on juvenile justice, held by the SCO Supreme Court Chairs in Kyrgyzstan.

Southern African Development Community

129. In 2010, the Department of Political Affairs deployed a liaison team with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Gaborone to provide support to conflict prevention and mediation activities, including the establishment and strengthening of the Community's conflict prevention desk and support in the area of electoral assistance.

130. ECA helped SADC to develop harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies, a regional gender monitoring tool, a framework for regional financial integration, and an action plan for the harmonization of mining policies, standards and regulatory frameworks in southern Africa. The e-SADC initiative, jointly developed by ECA, SADC and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa to address harmonization of information and communication technologies for regional economic integration, was also launched.

131. In 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, SADC and the Regional Centre on Small Arms conducted a regional workshop on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons for States of the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and southern Africa.

132. UNCTAD contributed to SADC workshops on finalizing the protocol for the liberalization of trade in services in the region, and provided technical advice to the SADC Trade Negotiating Forum services meetings.

133. A memorandum of understanding between ILO and SADC was signed in 2008 to develop a regional decent work programme for SADC. ILO provided technical assistance and advice, and the outcomes and outputs were later adopted. It provided financial and technical support to study the impact of the global economic crisis on

10 SADC countries. ILO also provided technical training on social dialogue and labour law formulation.

134. ILO has collaborated and provided financial and technical support to the SADC Employers' Group to undertake a study on the impact of the global economic crisis on selected SADC countries. ILO also provided a technical adviser to the SADC secretariat to coordinate and monitor SADC employment and labour policies, and is engaging three consultants to conduct comprehensive assessments of productivity centres in Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa to determine the most suitable existing productivity centre in the region to host the SADC Productivity Organization.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

A. Overall support by parliaments to the United Nations

135. The Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2010. In the presence of the Secretary-General and 150 Speakers of Parliament, the Conference adopted a Declaration on Securing Global Democratic Accountability for the Common Good. The Declaration reaffirms the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to fill a "democracy gap" in international relations.

136. The parliamentary leaders reaffirmed that IPU is the international body best suited to help build the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations. They encouraged IPU and the United Nations to expand and solidify their cooperation.

137. The Speakers' Conference was preceded by the Sixth Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, which focused on Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 relating to child mortality and maternal health. The parliamentary leaders endorsed the Secretary-General's initiatives on maternal, neonatal and child health. They pledged to lend their support and use their leadership and legislative powers to influence national budgets, laws and policies in favour of maternal, neonatal and child health.

138. At the time of the Speakers' conference, IPU released a global survey on how national parliaments work with the United Nations. One hundred parliaments took part in the survey. It shows that parliamentary engagement with the United Nations has grown steadily over the years: more parliamentarians are attending international meetings, and more parliaments are establishing parliamentary committees dedicated to following United Nations affairs. Yet, the potential of interaction between parliaments and the United Nations remains largely untapped. This is particularly the case at the country level, where parliaments report only scant interaction with the United Nations community of agencies and programmes. The survey also demonstrates that many parliaments want the relationship between the United Nations and IPU to be further consolidated.

139. The IPU Statutory Assemblies of 2009 and 2010 adopted resolutions on global issues such as South-South cooperation and the Millennium Development Goals,

youth participation, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, violence against women, climate change and renewable energies, food security, and the global financial crisis. United Nations system representatives took part in the debates. UNICEF organized field visits to Ethiopia and Thailand to raise awareness of parliamentarians on the health and education gap of children in those countries.

140. The IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs continued its work during the second IPU assemblies in 2008 and 2009. The Committee's Advisory Group closely followed the One United Nations reform process and undertook field missions to the pilot countries of United Republic of Tanzania (2008) and Viet Nam (2009) to examine the process and help to facilitate parliamentary involvement in national development strategies. The conclusions of the first mission to the United Republic of Tanzania were discussed at a panel organized at United Nations Headquarters in 2008. The Committee also provided a forum for parliamentary hearings and debates on critical issues on the United Nations agenda. In the process leading up to major United Nations conferences in 2009, the Committee met the Director-General of FAO to discuss the food crisis, and heard a briefing from the Deputy Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the status of negotiations for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

141. In 2010, IPU and UNDP signed a new memorandum of understanding. It builds on a previous agreement by expanding the scope of joint activities. Areas of cooperation include: building capacities of parliaments to exercise their oversight and legislative role, particularly with respect to aid effectiveness, economic governance and poverty reduction; developing standards, benchmarks and good practices for democratic parliaments; supporting parliamentary involvement in implementing United Nations conventions; promoting the empowerment of women, particularly by facilitating their integration in politics and elected office; and promoting the role of parliaments in peace and reconciliation processes.

B. Contribution of parliaments to major United Nations events

142. IPU mobilized parliaments in preparation for the 2010 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. The Speakers attending the Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament reaffirmed their commitment to the MDGs and pledged to help mainstream them in the work of their parliaments.

143. Parliamentarians joined their respective countries' delegations to the Millennium Development Goal Summit, shared ideas and experiences, and contributed to various Summit activities. The President of IPU addressed the Summit with a message from the Speakers' Conference. IPU prepared studies and reports on how parliaments integrate the Millennium Development Goals into their day-to-day work.

144. Two annual Joint IPU-United Nations Parliamentary Hearings were held in 2008 and 2009. The President of the General Assembly was directly involved in preparing those events, which have become the largest parliamentary gatherings at United Nations Headquarters. The 2008 Hearing addressed the responsibility to protect, sexual violence against women and children in conflict, and challenges

facing peacekeeping operations. The 2009 Hearing discussed effective responses to the global economic crisis.

145. IPU mobilized parliaments in support of efforts to reach a global agreement on climate policies at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009. It held a parallel parliamentary meeting at the Danish Parliament, which was attended by some 300 Members of Parliament.

146. IPU similarly encouraged parliaments to address food security issues, and the second IPU Assembly in 2009 adopted a resolution on parliamentary action to ensure food security. IPU invited parliamentarians to join their national delegations to the Food Summit in Rome in 2009 and held a parallel parliamentary meeting.

147. IPU convened a major parliamentary conference in Geneva in 2009 to discuss a parliamentary response to the global economic and financial crisis. The heads of ILO and UNCTAD participated in this meeting, feeding into the General Assembly's high-level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in 2009 in New York. IPU also hosted a meeting of the Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System. IPU participated in the United Nations Conference, and the outcome document encouraged IPU "to continue to contribute to the development of global responses to the crisis" (General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex, para. 59).

148. The broader agenda of financing for development is among the central areas of cooperation between IPU and the United Nations. IPU contributed to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha in 2008. IPU held a parliamentary hearing at the Conference and Members of Parliament participated in several official round tables. In the section on Official Development Assistance, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development acknowledged the need to engage parliaments in the development process in order to ensure better aid results (see General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, para. 46). That further validated the strong provisions about parliaments that were made in the Accra Agenda for Action on aid effectiveness in 2008.

149. IPU members adopted a resolution on advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and securing the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at their 120th Assembly in Addis Ababa in 2009. The resolution endorsed the Secretary-General's five-point plan for a nuclear-weapon-free world, called for the universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and generally laid the foundations for a stronger parliamentary engagement on disarmament matters. Parliaments reported back on their follow-up action to the resolution, and in 2010 joined a special parliamentary session convened in the context of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

150. IPU is a member of the Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and raised awareness of the Alliance's goals and activities in parliaments. It held a first parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2010. IPU also co-organized an official working session on democracy, good governance and cultural diversity.

C. Peace and security

151. In support of the Peacebuilding Commission, IPU continued its engagement in Burundi and Sierra Leone to promote democratic governance, national dialogue and reconciliation. IPU organized a second retreat in Burundi in 2009 with the parliamentary leadership, focusing on the electoral law and on modalities for effective participation of all the political parties in the work of parliament. In Sierra Leone, IPU assisted the Parliament in designing a parliamentary action plan for national reconciliation. In 2009, IPU conducted an assessment of capacity-building needs of the Parliament in the Central African Republic. Also in 2009, IPU co-organized a seminar for parliaments in the Great Lakes Region of Africa on the need for greater parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

152. The President of IPU undertook two diplomatic missions to the Middle East region in 2009, where he met with Israeli and Palestinian political leaders in an effort to help ease tensions and restart a parliamentary dialogue between the parties.

153. More broadly, IPU has continued to promote a strong parliamentary contribution to reconciliation processes in post-conflict countries. It works closely with the Department of Political Affairs to develop a rapid response mechanism to facilitate dialogue among the main political factions in parliament.

154. IPU provides support to parliaments to help them respond to reconciliation challenges through the adoption of appropriate laws, support for the functioning of truth and reconciliation mechanisms, regular interaction with constituents, promotion of dialogue and social cohesion, and enhancement of parliaments' role as guardians of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In 2009 and 2010, activities were carried out in Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda leading to the adoption by parliaments of action plans in support of the reforms needed for peace consolidation. IPU is providing assistance in implementing those plans.

155. UNDP and IPU seek to enhance representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament. Activities are aimed at increasing knowledge of the actual levels of representation of such groups, identifying and providing tools for parliaments and others to enhance the political representation of minority and indigenous groups, and ultimately building capacities to promote more inclusive and representative parliaments.

156. The *Handbook on Combating Trafficking in Persons*, published by IPU and UNODC in 2009, raises awareness and informs parliamentarians of what countries can do to combat human trafficking. The 122nd IPU Assembly in 2010 adopted a resolution on cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organized crime.

D. Economic, social and environmental development

157. IPU carried out two major studies in 2010: one based on interviews of Members of Parliament to help better understand their perceptions of the Millennium Development Goals; and another focusing on how parliaments integrate the Millennium Development Goals into their institutional practices and political agendas. The latter study was prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Millennium Campaign and was released during the United Nations High-level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, during which IPU also organized a parliamentary event.

158. IPU worked with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide parliamentary input to the second session of the 2010 United Nations Development Cooperation Forum. IPU brought parliamentarians to two multi-stakeholder high-level symposiums in Vienna and Helsinki. It also prepared a report and adopted a resolution on the role of parliament in developing South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. IPU helped to design and carry out a pilot survey on mutual accountability.

159. IPU joined the new Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness Facility at its launch event in Manila in 2009. It is part of the UNDP global plan to help countries to implement the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and its successor, the Accra Agenda for Action. IPU also helped to produce a guidance note for parliamentarians.

160. IPU worked closely with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to involve parliaments in preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It helped to bring parliaments into the preparatory process, assisted parliaments to establish focal points for the national consultations, and helped to coordinate a parliamentary input to the regional consultation led by ESCAP.

161. IPU continued to build parliamentary interaction with the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a unique rules-setting and dispute-settlement body, while seeking to enhance democratic transparency and accountability. Facilitating the conclusion of the Doha Round through a more active parliamentary engagement remains a central development goal for IPU. The Union and the European Parliament organized parliamentary panels at the WTO Public Forum in 2009 and 2010. IPU also hosted four sessions of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO in 2009 and 2010.

162. The IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS works in close collaboration with UNAIDS and UNDP. The Group's work is guided by the objectives of the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. IPU organized several seminars and workshops for parliamentarians to share best legislative practices that parliaments can follow to help to achieve the goal of universal access. IPU also participated in the work of the International Task Team on HIV-related travel restrictions. IPU endorsed a set of recommendations developed by the Task Team which call for the elimination of HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence. IPU and the Austrian Parliament organized a parliamentary meeting in Vienna, on the occasion of the XVIII International AIDS Conference, at which

participants endorsed the international call to eliminate vertical transmission of the HIV virus by 2015.

163. IPU works closely with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health through the Countdown to 2015 — Tracking Progress in Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival initiative. Countdown conferences were held in conjunction with the IPU Assemblies in Addis Ababa in 2009 and Bangkok in 2010.

164. IPU continued to work with the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament to support parliaments in developing their information and communication technology capacities and promoting parliamentary follow-up to the commitments made at the 2003/2005 World Summit on the Information Society. This work included the joint publication of the World e-Parliament Report in 2008 and 2010. In 2009, the third World e-Parliament Conference focused on the latest trends and institutional developments that could help to make the institution of parliament more accessible and open to citizens via the use of information and communication technology. In 2010, IPU co-organized with the United Nations and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) the Third Parliamentary Forum on the Information Society.

E. Democracy and human rights

165. IPU continued to support parliaments in Burundi, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives, Pakistan, the Palestinian Legislative Council Secretariat, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. UNDP has been an important partner in strengthening the capacities of parliamentarians and their staff, modernizing the procedures and services of parliaments, providing assistance to parliamentary committees, improving communications services, and promoting gender activities.

166. IPU commemorated the International Day of Democracy in 2009 with activities centred on the theme of political tolerance. It commissioned a global survey on political tolerance which was released at United Nations Headquarters in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs. IPU held a parliamentary conference in Gaborone to discuss the state of democracy in Africa and how best to strengthen parliaments in African countries. IPU worked to make the International Day better known to the parliamentary community and encouraged them to use the day to stress the theme of political accountability and the need to restore trust between parliaments and the people. More than 70 national parliaments have organized events to mark the occasion.

167. Work began on a joint IPU-United Nations-UNDP Handbook for Parliamentarians on the 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which is intended to raise parliamentarians' awareness of indigenous peoples' issues and their fundamental human rights.

168. IPU held a panel discussion for Members of Parliament attending the 121st IPU Assembly in Geneva in 2009 on the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism. Participants stressed the need to ensure that national reports to the Council were reviewed and debated by parliaments, and that the recommendations were shared with parliaments so as to facilitate their implementation. IPU carried out a survey on how parliaments had so far been

involved in the process. It also organized a seminar in cooperation with OHCHR, to inform members of parliament of the work of the two committees which monitor the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

169. IPU continued to raise awareness of the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. It held a seminar for European parliamentarians in London in 2009, which used the Disabilities Handbook produced in 2008 with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and OHCHR.

170. In 2009, a seminar for French-speaking African Parliaments held in Gabon concluded a joint two-year IPU-OHCHR project, funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), to enhance parliaments' involvement in the work of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

171. A joint IPU-UNICEF seminar was organized in Costa Rica in 2009 for parliamentarians from the Latin American region to examine issues relating to the protection of children. It discussed ways to curb violence against children and produced guidelines on how to frame laws to prevent and criminalize acts of violence, earmark appropriate funding in the budget, and work with civil society and other partners to create a societal movement against this scourge.

F. Gender issues

172. In cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, IPU has continued to organize a one-day parliamentary meeting during the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. The 2010 parliamentary meeting elucidated the role of parliaments in enforcing gender equality and women's rights, while the 2009 meeting explored the role of parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women.

173. The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) continued as a hands-on resource and advocacy campaign to support women in politics. In 2009, the Arabic version of the iKNOW website was launched in Jordan at a regional conference for Arab countries. The main theme was the role of media and information technology in increasing the number and effectiveness of women in politics.

174. IPU has continued to contribute statistics on women in parliament to the United Nations. This information helps to track progress on millennium goal 3 on women's empowerment. The 2010 World Map of Women in Politics, a joint IPU-United Nations product, was issued on International Women's Day. The map highlights statistics of women in legislative and executive branches of governments.

175. IPU and OHCHR conducted their annual seminars in 2009 and 2010 for parliamentarians on implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. IPU also continued to submit written and oral reports on various States to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

176. A two-year project in support of women Members of Parliament in Burundi was completed in 2009. The project was led by IPU and the Parliament of Burundi and funded by UNDEF, and helped to identify discriminatory laws and practices and

facilitated action by parliaments to redress them. The project ended with discussion of a future plan of action for the Parliament.

177. IPU started a project in support of women Members of Parliament in Rwanda. It held a meeting in the Parliament of Rwanda in 2009 to review progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Rwanda. The meeting also focused on the role of the parliament in implementing Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

178. IPU and the UNDP country office in Jordan signed a memorandum of understanding in 2009 to support the House of Representatives of Jordan to promote women in parliament and respect for women's rights. As part of the joint programme of cooperation, a capacity-building session was organized for Jordanian women Members of Parliament on how to articulate political messages. Subsequent meetings served to consolidate links between women parliamentarians, ministers and representatives of civil society on gender issues.

179. In 2008, IPU joined the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women. An IPU conference in Geneva identified six priority actions for parliaments on this issue, and IPU followed up with a parliamentary campaign to end violence against women with a dedicated section on its website, as well as publications and campaign material to support parliaments in marking the tenth anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. IPU also organized regional parliamentary meetings in Europe, Latin America and the Arab region to mobilize parliaments in support of action, review legislation on violence against women, and assess implementation levels.

G. IPU secretariat

180. In response to the call to international organizations by the Secretary-General to eliminate wasteful practices, IPU has mapped its carbon footprint and made budgetary provisions to offset the environmental damage of official air travel. IPU has been a member of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund since 2005 and regularly attends its board meetings. IPU also benefits from the services of the International Civil Service Commission and the Administrative Tribunal and Social Security Department of ILO.

181. IPU pays special attention to the status of women in its Secretariat. It has implemented a recruitment strategy to reach gender parity in its workforce, and 50 per cent of posts in senior management positions and more than 60 per cent in professional positions are filled by women.

H. Conclusions

182. Building on the close and substantive relationship between the United Nations and IPU, efforts are under way to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations.

183. The practice of including members of parliament in national delegations attending major United Nations meetings has become more common, as has the IPU practice of parliamentary sessions in the context of such United Nations events. There is also increasing convergence between the political agendas of the two

organizations. More IPU resolutions and meetings are being designed to address priority areas of the United Nations. The annual Joint IPU/United Nations Parliamentary Hearing has established itself as a valuable platform for interaction among members of parliament, United Nations officials and government representatives.

184. Cooperation between the two organizations is also becoming stronger at the operational and field levels. There are more joint activities that benefit countries and parliaments, and that advance important objectives in the area of democracy and development.

185. Regular annual exchange between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the IPU senior leadership is one way to develop a more coherent approach to how the United Nations relates to national parliaments.

186. Cooperation between IPU, national parliaments and the United Nations may be further enhanced in the context of the ongoing United Nations reform process. Enhanced awareness and engagement by parliaments can also lend greater transparency and accountability to United Nations operations.

187. The experience of new United Nations bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Commission's Development Cooperation Forum in developing an integrated approach to cooperation with parliaments and IPU has been positive. The new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) offers considerable scope for a similarly successful experience in areas that include the political empowerment of women, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, and implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and other relevant United Nations resolutions.

188. There is room for more systematic cooperation between parliaments and the United Nations system at the national level. The "One UN" reform process in particular may help to streamline this relationship. Cooperation should aim more explicitly, and in a more coordinated fashion, at building the capacities of national parliaments. A stronger relationship between parliaments and the United Nations at this level can only help to enhance the impact and overall effectiveness of United Nations efforts in support of peace, development and democracy. The General Assembly, therefore, may wish to further explore the issue of the contribution by parliaments and IPU to the work of the United Nations, by including it as a separate item on the agenda of its forthcoming session.

189. Cooperation between the United Nations and IPU has raised awareness among parliamentarians everywhere of issues of concern to the United Nations in a cost-effective way. This has secured valuable returns to the Organization in terms of strengthened political awareness and support, enhanced national ownership and higher probability of effective follow-up action.

IV. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; and Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

190. The report of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction for the year 2007 was submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the provisions of article IV, paragraph 1, of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (General Assembly resolution 55/283, annex) (A/64/156).

191. The report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization covering the year 2008 was submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the provisions of article IV, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Regulate the Relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (General Assembly resolution 54/280, annex) (A/64/155).